light of Late Shri Nikhil Chakravarty Committee Report submitted in July 1992.

(c) 11 IDSA scholars undertook research fellowship abroad since July 2001. In addition, 179 scholars went abroad during the period to attend seminars, workshops etc.

(d) Scholars under fellowship projects in IDSA have been permitted to go for fellowships in Institutions abroad for limited period of time and they have been permitted to draw Fellowship stipend abroad for lcoal expenses. Thus, Fellowship allowances have been allowed to be drawn to enable them to finance their stay abroad during the Fellowship period.

Review of DRDO

2466. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Expert Committee set up to conduct a comprehensive review of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Committee has been constituted on 8th February 2007, under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Rama Rao with seven members-four superannuated officers one each from the three Services and from Defence Finance, and one each from Industry, Public Sector Units (PSUs), and Academic Institutions.

(b) No, Sir. The committee has just begun its work and is expected to complete its task by end of the year.

(c) Does not arise.

Lagging behind in the field of artillery

2467. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is still lagging behind in the field of artillery;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to fill the gap and to compete with the other countries in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indian Army has drawn up plans for phased modernization of its artillery. A number of modernization schemes are being pursued with respect to induction of state of art weapon systems, ammunitions, surveillance system and support equipment of ensure that modernization of field artillery keep pace with technological advancements and opertional requirements.

Army cantonment at Bilaspur

†2468. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to construct an army cantonment in Bilaspur;

(b) if so, the status of action in this regard;

(c) the area of land that would be required for its establishment; and

(d) the details of the progress in its establishment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No decision has been taken by the Ministry of Defence to set up a cantonment in Bilaspur.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Operators against ULFA by army

†2469. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special operation is being launched against ULFA in Assam, by the army;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.